

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY  
(continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

SOUTHEASTERN

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**  
Hayfields and pastures are suffering due to lack of widespread rain, thus this is putting pressure on livestock producers to rotate more often or consider supplementing w/ hay early. Corn in bottomland and deep soils is still doing good to fair but needs significant rain soon. Fruit and vegetables are producing nicely and this lack of precipitation has some benefit in reducing disease pressures for those crops.

SOUTHERN

**PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)**  
Drought conditions continue to worsen due to continued lack of rain. Corn has been stunted with most plants setting only one ear. Full season soybeans look excellent, but double cropped soybeans are suffering. Flue-cured tobacco looks variable throughout the county. Producers are still trying to clean out the remaining tops, while getting ready to finish up the first pulling. Hay and pasture lands have gone back very quickly and are looking very bare. Some producers are already feeding winter hay supplies and evaluating winter feeding strategies.

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**  
Dry conditions are continuing. Some hay is being cut, but it is lacking in tonnage and quality. Cotton needs rain as blooming is going on at this time. Ponds are getting low and streams are dropping as well.

**DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)**  
All the 2008 Ag Expo Plots look good for this Thursday; we have them supported by irrigation (drip and center pivot).

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**  
This weeks weather has been moderate. Temperatures and a few showers are maintaining crop growth. Soybeans are still undersized due to earlier dry weather. No major pest activity to report yet.

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WEATHER &  
CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE AND  
CONSUMER SERVICES

Week Of: August 4- 10, 2008

Number: 22

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 10, 2008

Most of Virginia continued to suffer from dry conditions. However, some parts of the State received isolated rain showers which have improved the corn and soybean conditions. Days suitable for field work were 6.4. In the drier parts of the State, corn grower anticipated corn yield to be 20 to 50 percent lower than normal. As local water sources began to be depleted, some counties were asking for voluntary water restrictions. The dry conditions have also affected the beef industry. Poor pasture conditions have livestock producers giving cattle supplemental feed, selling off calves earlier than normal, and reducing the cow herd. Other farming activities for the week included irrigating pumpkins, harvesting Ginger Gold Apples, peaches, and tomatoes, and scouting for insect pressure.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 10, 2008	17	43	40	0
August 3, 2008	15	35	49	1
July 27, 2008	7	35	56	2
July 20, 2008	9	34	54	3
July 13, 2008	5	24	64	7

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	10	21	39	28	2
Livestock	2	5	25	55	13
Hay, Other	8	17	37	35	3
Hay, Alfalfa	4	4	42	41	9
Corn	8	17	26	29	20
Soybeans	10	16	40	26	8
Tobacco, Flue Cured	6	17	30	34	13
Tobacco, Burley	1	6	28	50	15
Tobacco, Fire-cured	1	30	30	30	9
Peanuts	0	8	15	55	22
Cotton	0	0	42	50	8
Apples, All	0	1	20	61	18
Grapes	0	1	7	73	19
Oats	1	2	34	61	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	95	91	99	94
Corn Dough	75	55	71	67
Corn Dent	38	17	44	33
Corn Mature	3	NA	6	NA
Corn Silage Harvested	13	NA	NA	NA
Soybeans Blooming	65	49	78	75
Soybeans Setting Pods	28	18	47	48
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	17	15	20	18
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	2	NA	NA	NA
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured Harvested	9	NA	NA	NA
Peanuts Pegged	99	90	89	90
Cotton Squaring	99	93	100	100
Cotton Setting Bolls	93	71	95	92
Summer Apples Harvested	39	30	69	64
Peaches Harvested	59	44	73	66

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF August 3 - 9, 2008													
	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
City	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug 9	Mar. 1 to Aug 9 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	89	62	93	58	76	1	2520	2499	0.00	2.97	-6.31	17.02	-10.43
Norfolk	86	72	90	66	79	1	2944	2745	0.00	5.74	-4.69	21.14	-7.81
Richmond	91	67	96	63	79	2	2925	2715	0.00	7.69	-1.80	29.01	1.65
Roanoke	88	65	92	59	76	0	2676	NA	0.07	8.39	-0.34	20.37	-6.43
Wash/Dulles	88	64	93	60	76	0	2521	NA	0.01	6.49	-2.16	28.23	2.80

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Rain Sunday evening helped with dry conditions. Corn crop needed this rain to continue its progress toward a good crop. Pasture and hay lands will also benefit as dry matter accumulation had stopped across most of the county.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Cattle are beginning to be fed due to lack of grazing opportunities. Peaches are on the market as are Ginger Gold Apples.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

No relief to drought conditions. Some livestock producers are feeding and some are hauling water. Stream flow is diminishing. Other producers have begun to sell calves earlier than normal to reduce the cow herd.

BEDFORD (Scott Baker)

Dry conditions persisted last week. Livestock producers are concerned about declining water resources. Many report feeding as pastures have gone dormant. Corn for silage yields appear to be significantly below average.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Livestock producers are cutting silage. Many are feeding silage green chop due to the scarceness of hay. Very limited rainfall has put the soybean crop at risk. If we do not see widespread extensive rain in the next week soybean yield will be severely impacted. Corn is past being improved by rainfall. Many areas have received close to adequate rain while others are limited. Corn yields will probably be below normal due to the poor moisture conditions From mid-July through August. Vegetable farmers are still harvesting melons and tomatoes and irrigating pumpkins and other fall crops. Strawberry producers are preparing fields for planting in September.

CUMBERLAND (David Smith)

We have filed a SCS Flash Report to place on notice the pending disaster status of the County.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Timely scattered thunderstorms in various parts of the county have helped corn and soybean growth considerably. High corn earworm moth counts but no reported corn earworm soybean problems yet. It is a bit early, usually starts around August 20. Corn yield will be off, possibly 20 percent or more depending on amount of rain received next two weeks. Tomato harvest active and will continue into the fall. Lima and fall snap bean crops for fall looks good so far. There will be a lot of beans due to contracts with reported contracts for some at 300 to 500 acres for some farmers.

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Conditions were getting very dry. Showers on Sunday brought some moisture. High temperatures last week resulted in additional moisture loss.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Recent rains have perked up soybeans, but too late for corn. Corn yields will be hurt and potential has been decreased by almost 50%. Soybeans still have good potential; we just need continued showers. Early beans are making pods and some double crop beans are beginning to flower. Corn earworm moth counts are increasing and producers will need to begin scouting for problems next week. Dry weather has affected most crops including vegetables. Yields and quality have been hurt. Pastures are dry with some hay still being made.